



Mellors also describes two preferred embodiments, Examples 1 and 2 (col. 3, lines 36-37 (“Description Of The Preferred Embodiments”) and col. 3, line 41 to col. 4, line 48). In Example 2, an impregnated felt having a final density of 0.15 g/cm<sup>3</sup> is used to prepare a material having a lower compression modulus. This results in an insole having more cushioned comfort, which is suitable for casual or more conventional footwear (col. 4, lines 33-44). For higher performance footwear, such as running shoes, Mellors teaches the use of an impregnated felt having a final density of 0.17 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (col. 4, lines 5-7 and 26-30). Therefore, Mellors’ preferred densities for the impregnated felt are significantly higher than 0.08 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not have any motivation based on Mellors to include a bulky layer having an apparent density of less than 0.08 g/cm<sup>3</sup> in the materials disclosed therein.

Ohigashi also does not disclose or suggest a nonwoven fabric laminate having a rigid layer with an apparent density of less than 0.15 g/cm<sup>3</sup> or a bulky layer with an apparent density of less than 0.08 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. Ohigashi discloses a shoe-making laminate having two webs (col. 1, lines 47-57). As exemplified, the first web has apparent densities of 0.2 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (Example 1), 0.35 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (Example 2), and 0.3 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (Example 3). The second layer has an apparent density greater than 0.3 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. As exemplified, the second layer has apparent densities of 0.4 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (Example 1), 0.9 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (Example 2), and 1.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (Example 3). Therefore, the apparent densities of the two webs in Ohigashi are significantly greater than the apparent density of the bulky layer of the presently claimed laminate.

Ohigashi stresses the importance of having a second layer having an apparent density greater than 0.3 g/cm<sup>3</sup> (col. 2, lines 10-14):

On account of its unique breathable structure, the insole made of the shoemaking material of this invention absorbs sweat through the face layer and retains the absorbed sweat in the core layer, thereby keeping dry the face of the insole, while the shoes are on the feet. The breathable structure and the hydrophobic nature of the constituting material permit the absorbed sweat to transpire while the



